

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14098 021043Z
ACTION NEA-11

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-----048104 021051Z /15
O 021035Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9830

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14098

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA FROM CHARGE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP EG US
SUBJECT: GENERAL GAMASY'S VISIT TO U.S.

1. AFTER TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR TWO WEEKS I FINALLY
HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH GENERAL GAMASY FOR 1000 A.M.
SATURDAY, JUNE 3, TO REVIEW WITH HIM HIS SCHEDULE FOR
VISIT TO U.S. AS WELL AS FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR F-5E
AIRCRAFT (STATE 130213). WHEN I SAW HIM AT A DINNER
EVENING JUNE 1, GAMASY GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE FELT HIS
SCHEDULE WAS IN HANDS OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND
THE PENTAGON AND THAT THERE WAS NOT TOO MUCH POINT IN
HIS TRYING TO FIDDLE AROUND WITH IT. HE DID NOT SAY THIS
IN ANY WAY INDICATINGDISPLEASURE WITH SCHEDULE, BUT
MORE IN SENSE OF LEAVING IT IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO
MIGHT KNOW WHAT WAS MOST APPROPRIATE. I ASSURED HIM THAT
WE WERE MOST ANXIOUS THAT HE HAVE A FRUITFUL AND
SUCCESSFUL TRIP, AND THAT WE WERE ANXIOUS THAT SCHEDULE
MEET HIS WISHES. GAMASY SAID HE WAS SURE THAT WAS THE
CASE AND LOOKED FORWARD TO GOING OVER DETAILS JUNE 3.

2. THERE IS, HOWEVER, ONE ITEM ON SCHEDULE THAT PUZZLES
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ME. ACCORDING TO DATT, EGYPTIAN EMBASSY AND DOD/ISA,
WITH CONCURRENCE OF DEPT, HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR
GAMASY TO TAPE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 9, AN APPEARANCE ON
"ISSUES AND ANSWERS" TO BE BROADCAST JUNE 11. DATT
SAYS THAT ISA HAS INFORMED HIM THAT AMBASSADOR EILTS IS
"AWARE OF" THIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE, WITH THE IMPLICATION
THAT THE AMBASSADOR CONCURS IN THE DESIRABILITY OF THIS

EVENT. WHILE I DISCUSSED GAMASY'S TRIP WITH AMBASSADOR JUST BEFORE HE LEFT, IDEA OF GAMASY'S APPEARING ON ONE OF THE "SUNDAY TALK SHOWS" DID NOT ARISE. MY OWN VIEW IS THAT THIS IDEA IS NOT A GOOD ONE AND I DO NOT BELIEVE GENERAL GAMASY WOULD WANT TO MAKE THIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE IF HE WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE FORMAT AND VERY WIDE ATTENTION THAT WOULD BE DIRECTED TO IT. GAMASY IS BASICALLY A SHY AND SOMEWHAT RETICENT MAN WHO DOES NOT PARTICULARLY ENJOY THE LIMELIGHT, AND HIS ENGLISH, WHILE ADEQUATE, WOULD NOT BE UP TO THE FAST GIVE-AND-TAKE OF THIS KIND OF PROGRAM. I BELIEVE HE WOULD FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE IN THIS SETTING AND WOULD NOT MAKE A PARTICULARLY GOOD IMPRESSION. MY FURTHER UNDERSTANDING IS THAT GENERAL GAMASY IS NOT ANXIOUS FOR WIDE PUBLICITY ON HIS TRIP, AND IN FACT LAST NIGHT HE EXPRESSED SOME ANNOYANCE THAT THE PENTAGON HAD MADE A PUBLIC RELEASE OF HIS SCHEDULE.

3. I WILL REVIEW WITH HIM DURING OUR MEETING TOMORROW THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS APPEARANCE ON "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" TO BE SURE HE UNDERSTANDS THE NATURE OF THE PROGRAM AND ITS WIDE PUBLIC IMPACT. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BEFORE THAT MEETING ANY LIGHT DEPT MAY BE ABLE TO SHED ON THIS PROPOSAL AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER THE DEPT AND AMBASSADOR EILTS HAVE CONCURRED IN THE DESIRABILITY OF GAMASY'S DOING THIS. PLEASE SLUG REPLY NIACT IMMEDIATE. CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTHEWS

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